

WHY ARE WE RIGHT-HANDED?

A Princeton Professor Answers by Experimenting with His Child.

Prof. J. Mark Baldwin, of Princeton University, has been performing a series of experiments upon one of his children with a view to finding out the origin of right-handedness. There is no apparent scientific reason why a man should use one hand more than another, or why the muscles of one arm should be stronger than those of another. A number of theories have been advanced to account for the phenomenon. One of the most plausible is the people become right-handed from the manner in which they are held and carried when small children. The mother carries the child in such a way as to leave the right hand free, and from this early experience the habit is acquired which runs through its whole life. It is also a curious fact that the observation of animals fails to show an uneven development of the muscles of limbs on one side of the body as compared with those of the other. Monkeys especially are known to swing freely by both arms equally well, although this is a point that Prof. Baldwin might well have studied in the jungles of Africa.

The experiment made by Prof. Baldwin of Princeton, extended over a period of many months, beginning while the child was an infant. This, however, was only in regard to objects placed at some distance from the body of the child, and where it had to reach out for them. When objects were placed near the child it used both hands equally.

More than 1,000 experiments of this kind were tried by Prof. Baldwin, and when the objects reached for were near its body it used both hands about an equal number of times. In stretching out, however, it almost invariably used its right hand. From this he argued that the tendency is inherited. Left-handed children are, it is said, generally descended from left-handed mothers or fathers. Those that are right-handed learn to shake hands more easily than left-handed children, who have to stretch their arms across their body in an awkward fashion to perform the act.

Prof. Baldwin thinks that the right-handed function has some connection with the power of speech. They both belong to the same lobe of the brain, and before a child learns to speak it has been observed that it endeavors to express emotions with its hands. There are some people who are neither left nor right-handed, but who can use both hands equally well, even in writing, the muscles on either arm being the same size.

Stories of Vance.

The late Senator Vance used to say (according to Kate Field's Washington) that his liveliest campaign for the Governorship of North Carolina was that in which Judge Settle ran against him. They stumped the State in joint debate. All the white Democrats turned out to hear Vance, and all the colored Republicans to hear Settle. On one occasion, Vance was informed that some young ladies desired to testify their devotion to the Democratic party by kissing the Democratic candidate for Governor. Nothing loth, Vance descended from the platform and kissed a dozen or so of the young beauties, and then paused long enough to turn around toward his competitor and shout: "Settle, I'm kissing my girls; now you kiss yours." When he married the second time, he said to his wife on their wedding-day: "My dear, I'm a stubborn fellow, and you may anticipate trouble. Now, in the beginning, while I am submissive, I want to give you one piece of advice. If you follow it, we'll get on mighty well. It is this: Make me do just as I darned please." A newspaper man, who was about starting for a rather out-of-the-way portion of Vance's own State, was asking him one day what kind of accommodation he was likely to find. "They'll give you some of their fried hog and eggs," the Senator replied. "That's better than nothing," said the newspaper man. "I don't know—I don't know," the Senator answered, in a dubious tone. "I've tried both."

A Strange Discovery in Africa. Unlooked for things have been found in unlikely places, but there has probably been no discovery more remarkable than that of Balzaco's dressing gown in the possession of the King of Dahomey. Monarchs are rarely literary, and his dusky majesty, one would think, was the very last of them to have set such value upon the personal relic of a novelist, however distinguished. Nevertheless, the French found it in the royal apartment at Abomey. There were some ingenious theories founded upon this circumstance. One of the Amazons, it was thought, might have been a novel reader, and had sent to Paris to secure the interesting memento, and on the affair coming to the knowledge of her sovereign, had hastened to say she had purchased it for her own shoulders. For, indeed, he always wore it upon state occasions. It was not a dressing gown such as literary persons in this country are wont to wear (of second-class flannel, worn as the edges), but of purple velvet embroidered with gold. As a matter of fact it had been given to Balzaco by some of his admirers, and after his death had been bought by a dealer in curiosities, who had placed it, with other showy articles, on the West African market. It is said to think how a plain tale will "put down" that is, destroy—the materials of a fine romance.—Illustrated London News.

Perfect.

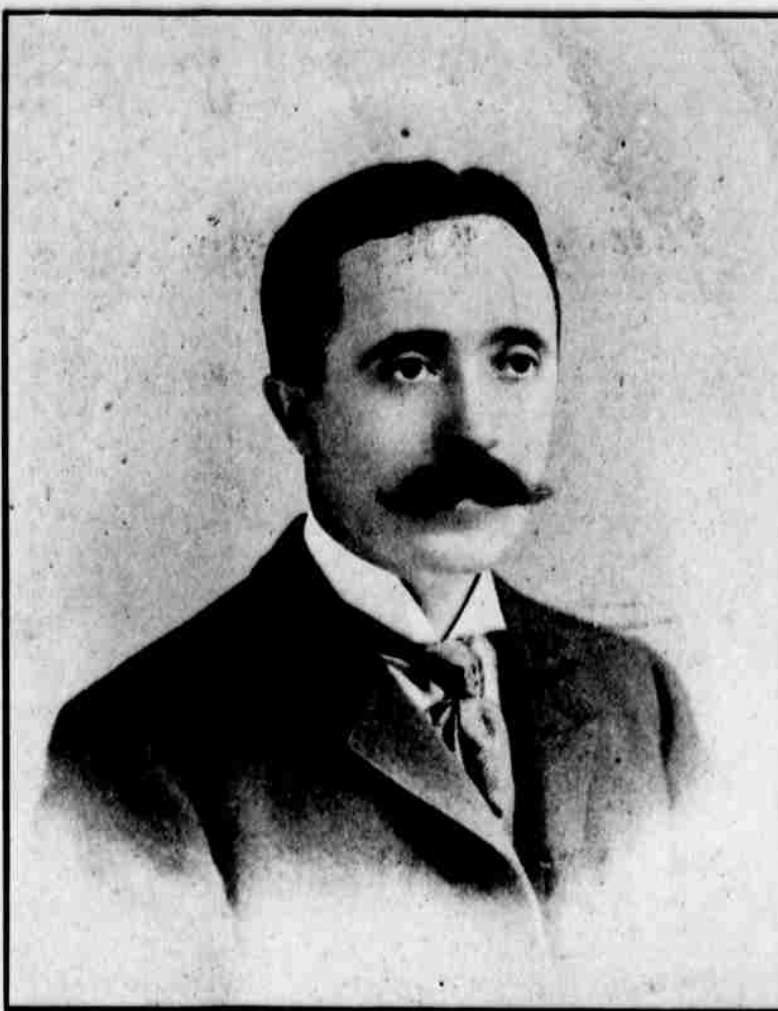
Some beautiful and perfect camellias were displayed in a florist's window, and two old ladies stood looking at them in manifest delight. "Aint that a handsome sight?" said one at length.

"I guess 'tis," was the reply. "I aint seen nothin' like afore since we left home. I can't think of nothin' to compare 'em to."

"Nor I neither. Why, they're every mite as handsome as wax ones!"

There is one good thing about the man with a trouble on his mind; he doesn't break into your office with whistle or song.

CAUTION is sometimes too near-sighted.



MR. JAMES J. GRAY.

Democratic Candidate for Clerk of the Probate Court.



HON. ERNEST J. MAGERSTADT.

Republican Nominee for Probate Clerk.

GETTING READY FOR WAR.

The Celestial Empire Fully Alive to the Latest Improvements.

Any one who thinks that China is asleep to what is going on in the modern world has only to visit one of its great government gun factories to be convinced of this mistake, writes Mr. Frank G. Carpenter. I have spent some time at the works of the Washington navy yard, where are being built the guns for our largest war ships. We pride ourselves on them as a nation, and consider them among the finest gun works of the world. Away out here in China there are similar foundries doing even more wonderful work, and that to a large extent with native made machinery, and just now with Chinese iron and coal.

No one knows much about the mineral resources of China. But coal and iron are said to exist in nearly every one of the eighteen states or provinces of the empire, and there have been some iron mines which have been worked for years. Up to this time China has been importing the raw material for her armaments, but she is now experimenting with her own supplies, and the manufacturing of China of the future will probably be entirely independent of the rest of the world. The coal and iron formations of the province of Chihli are said to be the largest in the world, and the product is unsurpassed.

The iron now used here comes from the province of Hunan, in about the center of China, and some idea of its character may be learned from a test which was recently made here. A shot was cast of this iron for a three-inch rifle, and it was fired against a target with the same charge and the same gun in competition with imported shot of steel. The steel shot penetrated the target, but none of them went through it. The Chinese cast-iron shot passed clear through the target and was lost.

Marvels of Modern Surgery. The germ theory is largely responsible for some of the marvels of modern surgery. Out of the germ theory grew the scrupulous care of surgeons as to the aseptic and anti-septic treatment of wounds so that the fevers and inflammations that used to be the inevitable consequence of surgical operations are now unknown in well-managed hospitals. Surgeons will now chip off the top of a man's head, exhibit his brain to a curious class of students, send him to bed with his "wound" antiseptically dressed, and bring him back a week later with nothing to show of the operation but a slight and well-healed scar. When a boy's leg was to be removed the other day the surgeon first cut out a hole in the abdomen big enough for one of them to thrust in his sterilized fist and pinch an artery that would be involved in the operation. But for the possibility of antiseptic treatment no such operation could be performed with safety.

Dust in Carpets. When putting down carpets in rooms that are much used it is a good plan to spread newspapers over the floor, then take clean straw and scatter it evenly over the papers, and then put your carpet down. It will let the dust through on the paper, and clouds of dust will

not follow the broom on sweeping day. The carpets will last longer with this lining than with any other, and when you take them up again you will find the dust lodged on the papers, and if carefully removed to the rubbish pile you will avoid filling your lungs with poisonous dust, as little will be found on sweeping the floor.

In putting down carpets in spare rooms, where they are not likely to be taken up very often, it is an excellent plan to scatter smoking tobacco over the paper, to guard against moths and the buffalo bug. This is a sure preventive against the attack of moths, and carpets may be safely left down in spare rooms for a number of years.—Country Gentleman.

The Boarder at Breakfast. "I have been reading a very interesting article on coffee," said Mrs. Small, as Mr. Hunker passed up his cup for refilling.

"Being about a beverage, the article couldn't be dry," observed Mr. Hunker, playfully, and then added: "Three lumps of sugar, please."

Something like a frown passed over the landlady's face at the boarder's remark, but she continued: "The article was one which deserves a large circulation, I think, for the good of the race. It was on the injurious effects of coffee drinking. The author said we are becoming a nation of coffee topers. The pernicious effects of too much coffee drinking he set forth in an exceedingly strong light. Among the serious results likely to follow, he enumerated a sallow skin, shattered nerves, a weakening of the eyesight, loss of will power, and in some cases he thought consumption might be traced to the inordinate use of the beverage. The author said that appalling statistics could be produced of the ravages of the coffee-drinking habit among the American people."

"It was coffee he was talking about, was it?" asked Mr. Hunker, as he rose to go.

"It was, Mr. Hunker."

"Then I don't think we need worry ourselves,"—Truth.

Sunday Postage in Belgium. In Belgium when a person posts a letter he can dictate whether it shall be delivered on Sunday or not. The government issues postage stamps with a narrow coupon attached. If this is torn off the letter or package will be delivered if it arrives at its destination Sunday; if left on, it will not.

Summer Train Service via Wisconsin Central.

Effective May 27. To Waukesha and lake resorts: 8:30 a. m., 1:25 p. m., 3:45 p. m., 5 p. m. To St. Paul, Minneapolis, Ashland, and Pacific Northwest: 6:05 p. m., 11:45 p. m. To Duluth 6:05 p. m.

The new billiard hall of Messrs. Sagan & Barber, over the House of David, 163 Clark street, is the finest in the city. Visit it.

Funk's wine beer is a healthy and nourishing drink.

A silly effort is being made to break the solidarity of the Cook County Republican delegation to the State convention. The movement is ostensibly in the interest of W. W. Tracy, formerly of Springfield, now of Chicago. It is really an attempt to "get even" with Henry Wulff for some alleged action of his prior to the county convention. It was started by an organ which had a relative as a candidate. The relative did not succeed. It will have no result injurious to Mr. Wulff. The Cook county delegation will be solid for the county clerk and will carry out the instructions of the convention of May

12. All the county candidates are laboring to that end. Mr. Tracy is really not seriously considered as a candidate for State treasurer.

Mr. Esdohr is not the only man who is angry over Friday's convention. The friends of Charles G. Neely, who are strong in Evanston, feel aggrieved. It is said, because that town was alighted and given no place on the ticket after being assured that Neely would be taken care of. Other Republicans are angry and disappointed because Mr. Carter was chosen for County Judge in place of John J. Knickerbocker.

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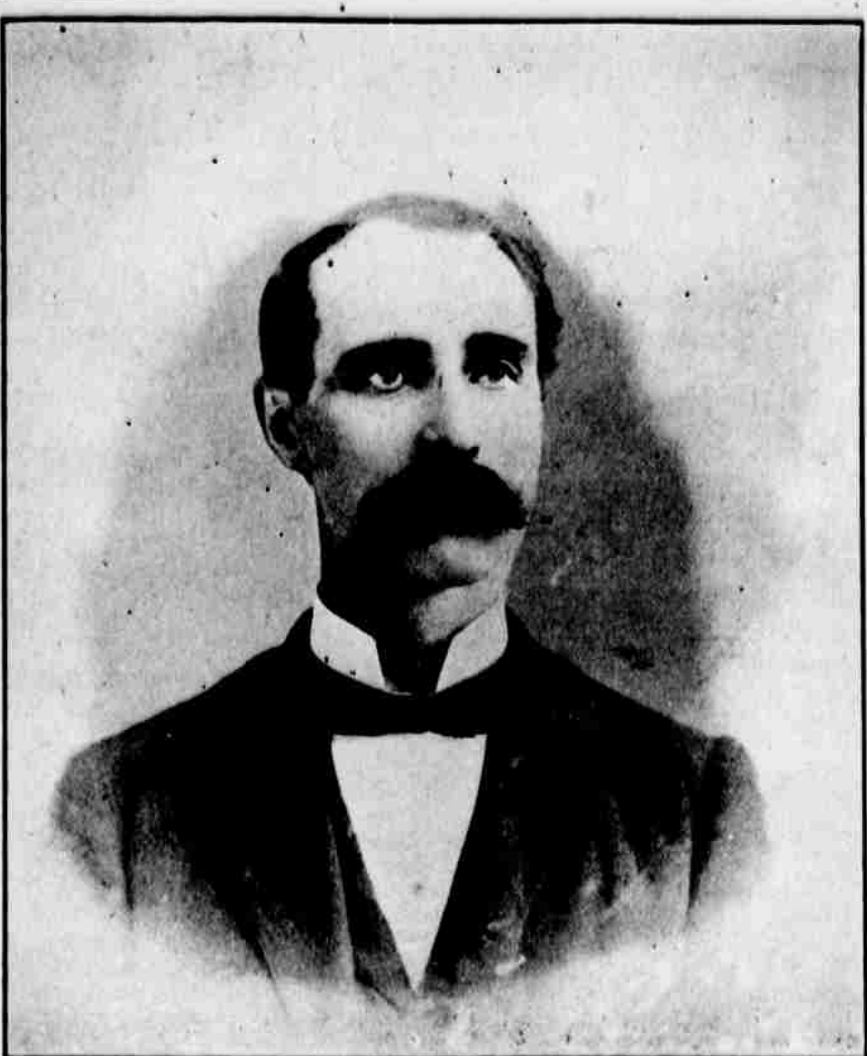
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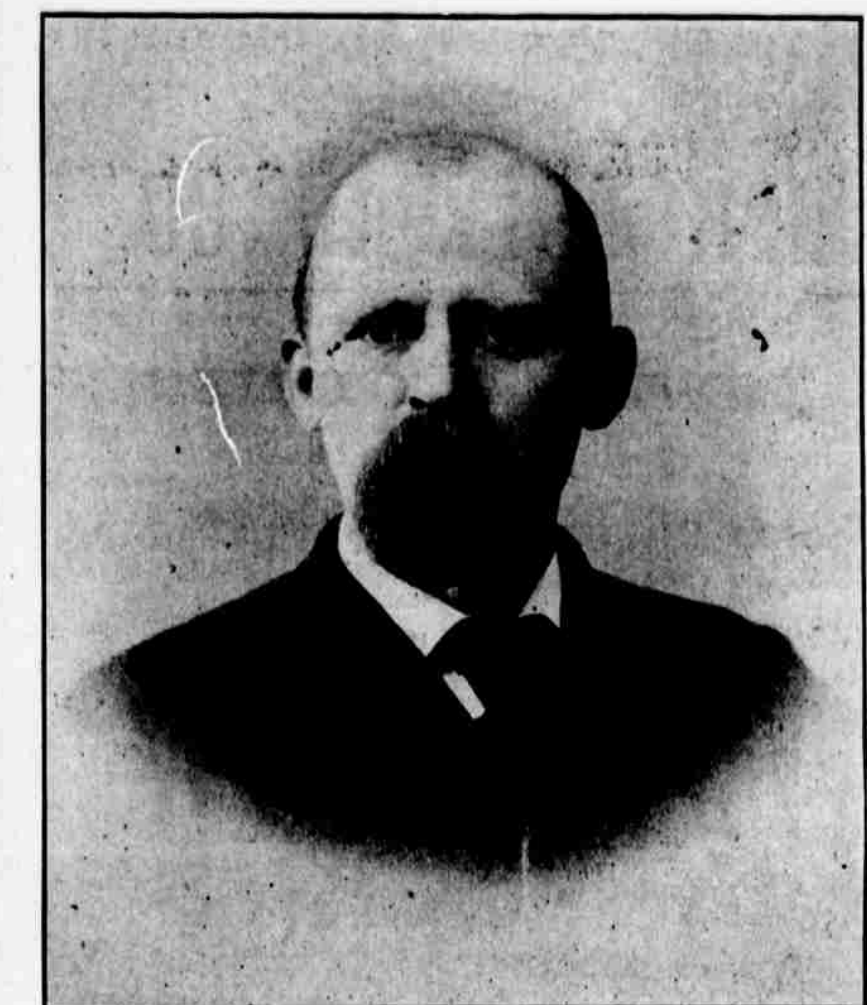
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HON. JOHN MEYER.

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NIMBLE WITH THEIR FEET.

Natives of India Find Them as Useful as Hands.

In the native quarters of the towns of India the strange spectacle may be seen of a butcher seizing a piece of meat in his hands and cutting it in two with a stroke of his knife held between the first and second toes of his foot. The shoemaker uses, no less, but turns the unfinished shoe with his feet, while his hands are busy in shaping it. So the carpenter holds with his great toe the board he is cutting, and the wood-turner handles his tools as well with his toes as with his fingers. This use of the feet to assist the hands in their labor is not, however, the mere result of practice, but is principally due to the fact that the Hindoo foot is quite different from ours in its anatomical conformation. The ankle of the Hindoo and the articulation of the bones of the foot permit considerable lateral motion. Then the toes possess a surprising mobility. The great toe can be moved freely in all directions and the first and second toes are separated by a wide space, sometimes as much as five-eighths of an inch across at the base of the toes and two inches at their extremities. The articulation of the hip is also peculiar and this renders it easier to use the toes in handling the objects by enabling the Hindoo to sit in a squatting posture much more comfortably than we can do. A similar formation of the feet and toes is found among the Annamese, but it is not, as might be supposed, a common thing among barbarous and savage tribes. One naturally thinks of the resemblance to a monkey which a human being using both feet and hands in the manner described above must present, and yet the Hindoo foot is not at all like the foot of an ape or monkey. The great toe is not opposed to the other toes like a thumb, as occurs with the monkey, and accordingly the pedal dexterity of the Hindoo is not to be taken as an indication of simian descent.

TO KEEP EGGS FRESH.

A Simple Means of Preserving Them Indefinitely.

A French naturalist has been experimenting on eggs with a view to discovering a means for keeping them fresh for a long period, and he assures us that he has hatched chickens from eggs kept for over two years by his process. His method is simple, and consists in dissolving some gum-lac in a sufficient quantity of alcohol to make a slight glaze. Into this each egg is dipped, and when they are completely dry, they are packed in bran or sawdust, taking care to place the large end upward. When the eggs are wanted, the glaze must be carefully removed with some alcohol, and they will be found in the same state as when they were enveloped. The rationale of this process consists in intercepting the air and preventing it penetrating the shell.

As is generally known, the egg shell is perforated by a myriad of small pores, which can only be perceived by the aid of a microscope. Through these pores, day by day, the albumen

inside the egg evaporates, and its place is taken by air. When the egg is full a fluid passes constantly toward the pores, and is the principle agent of corruption, the corruption being manifested more rapidly in warm than in cold weather. An egg absolutely fresh is entirely full, but the stale eggs have an empty space in proportion to their age, caused by the loss of albumen by evaporation.

SHEEP-SHEARING.

An Old-Timer Says It Is Not What It Used to Be.

Sheep-shearing isn't what it was some years ago, says an old-timer at the business. The truth is the sheep-raisers can't afford to pay much with the low price wool is bringing. But even at these low rates we can make more than at anything else. We work in crews and have a regular circuit that we traverse every season. Our crews consist of from six to twelve men. We enter into a contract to shear so many sheep a day—say 800 or 1,000. We have turned out 1,400 a day. I can shear 100, and there is one in our crew who can take off 125. We can make \$5 or \$6 a day each, anyhow, now. Sometimes we contract by the day to shear fine sheep, and then the wages run all the way from \$3 to \$5 per day. And when they want the sheep "stubble shorn," that is, leaving the wool about an inch long so that the merchant can examine it, we get fancy prices—say \$1.50 per head. This takes time and skill, and one is doing well to put off five or six head a day, though some who are extra handy with the shears can do much better.

We usually anchor on a big ranch, where there are 20,000 or 30,000 head, and corral them, putting them out in two or three weeks. Sometimes sheep-raisers have bands brought to us, 1,200 to 2,000 in a band; sometimes we go from ranch to ranch and clean them up as we go. We have traveled as far as forty miles to a sheep camp. We put the sheep on a platform twelve inches high and the fleece is taken off in forty minutes. The man who is ready can take off his 100 much as the man who takes off only 40 or 50. The buyer can easily detect the sheep that is well taken off. It makes a difference in the price, that bringing the best figure which is run off smoothly.

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